



Issue 14

# The Weekly Hill

17th July 2023

I can hardly believe that I am writing this, but here we are at the end of another wonderfully packed year at Etching Hill - I am so proud of all we have achieved together this year!

Again, our children have relished some amazing opportunities; we have had an array of inspiring visitors, from poets and authors, police, paramedics and fire fighters to historians and scientists. We have taken part in a record number of sporting events and competitions including hosting the first Trust wide swimming gala, along with children having lots of musical opportunities both in class and via after school clubs. We have had a first with our Y6s gaining distinctions in their Royal College of Music examinations! We have been on some amazing educational visits, extending learning way out of the classroom both locally and further afield, even taking part in our first overseas visit to Paris, France in March this year, giving our Year 6 children some truly memorable experiences before leaving Etching Hill and moving on to High School. We are so fortunate to have such a passionate and dedicated staff team here at Etching Hill, all determined to ensure that children are engaged every day, developing a curious mind and a love of learning.

We are also incredibly fortunate to be able to work with such wonderful children who make Etching Hill a vibrant, happy and exciting place to be. We are so very proud of our Year 6 cohort who have achieved so much in their journey here, we wish them the very best as they start their new chapter—keep shining Y6!

I would like to thank our small, but amazing group of PTFA volunteers who have arranged a number of fabulous events for our children to enjoy over the year, as well as raising funds. It would be wonderful to see new members in this group next year.

Finally, on behalf of the whole staff team I would like to say THANK YOU to all of our families for their continued support and positivity - it really does make such a difference—and wish you a fantastic Summer break!

## STAFFING NEWS

We are saying goodbye to a couple of members of our staff team; Mrs Siers in the kitchen, Miss Simpson in Early Years and Miss Taylor who is one of the teachers in Year 2.

**Mrs Siers** has been a fantastic part of the catering team, she leaves us to pursue a totally new career path outside of education. **Miss Simpson** has been with us in Early Years for a number of years, working with our younger school members. Coming with a background in SEN education, her nurturing approach with pupils has ensured she has become a much valued member of the team to children, staff and parents. With a new baby on the way, a new adventure awaits Miss Simpson! **Miss Taylor** is not only leaving Etching Hill, she is also leaving England, as she travels to teach in Bahrain in September. This is an exciting opportunity for Miss Taylor, and we look forward to hearing about her adventures in the Middle East. I am sure that you will join me in thanking them all for their contribution to Etching Hill, and wishing them lots of luck as they move on to their new ventures.

As anyone who has seen **Miss Pyatt** will have worked out, she is going to be leaving us temporarily, as she starts her maternity leave. We wish her and her family well for this very exciting time and look forward to meeting Baby.

We also say farewell to **Mrs Whitehouse**, who has been part of our school for 12 years and the Chair of the Governing Board for the last 5 years. She was also our link with the Church of the Holy Spirit, for many years. Mrs Whitehouse has dedicated a huge amount of her time to Etching Hill, both as a Governor and also through her delivery of worship for the children both at Church and in school. I would like to personally thank Mrs Whitehouse for the passion and commitment she has shown to our school, her support and conviction has been a huge part of our success and I am truly grateful for this.

We are delighted to be welcoming back **Mrs Bullock** and **Miss Cook** in September, both returning from their maternity leaves. Mrs Burton, an experienced teacher is also joining our teaching team in Year 5, and we have no doubt that she will be a great addition to our team.

I also wanted to share with you that I will be spending some time from September working for Future Generation Trust, the Trust which Etching Hill belongs to, in the role of Director of Education, alongside my role as Headteacher here, which I will be sharing with the wonderful **Mrs Morganti**, in her new role as Head of School.

Mrs Marie Smith

# SEPTEMBER—BACK TO SCHOOL IMPORTANT INFORMATION

## STATIONERY

We know that children often like to bring their own stationery and look forward to choosing a new pencil case for a new school year. This year we are requesting that all children from Y1 to Y6 bring in their own pencil case with the following items:

- Black biro (KS2)
- Pencil(s)
- Eraser
- Sharpener
- Coloured pencils
- Glue stick (with name on would be wonderful)



Children can also bring their own highlighters and felt pens if they wish.

If you are not able to provide these items please do not worry, we will of course ensure every child has everything that they need. However, at a time when school budgets are stretched, these small things will help and be greatly appreciated - thank you.

## PE DAYS & UNIFORM

Children will continue to come to school wearing their PE kits (black tops and shorts/joggers), in the new year.

YEAR 1:

Thursday & Friday

YEAR 2:

Tuesday & Wednesday

YEAR 3:

Monday & Friday

YEAR 4:

Tuesday & Wednesday

YEAR 5:

Monday & Tuesday

YEAR 6:

Thursday & Friday

## ATTENDANCE

Thank you for helping us to have good attendance at Etching Hill. We cannot stress enough the importance of being in school every possible day! All children who achieved above 98% (excellent attendance) were rewarded with a session on an inflatable earlier this week 130 children - an amazing number, but let's see if we can get even more next year!

## SCHOOL TIMES

There are no changes to the **start of the school day** for the new year. The gates are opened at **8.40am** when the staff will be ready to welcome the children into class. The gates will be locked promptly at **8.50am**, when lessons begin. If you arrive after this time, then your child be registered as late and misses out on a smooth start to the day and valuable learning time.

At the end of the school day all children up to Y4 must be collected from their classrooms, if parents in Years 5 & 6 would like their child to walk home or meet parents outside of school, permission for this must be given in an email or in writing to school.

The gate will be opened at **3.10pm** with end of day times as follows:

**Reception: 3.10pm**

**Years 1, 2 and 3 - 3.15pm**

**Years 4, 5 and 6 - 3.20pm**



### SCHOOL LUNCHES

The change to ordering school lunches on line has been very successful this year—thank you to all of you for embracing this.

A polite reminder that lunches do need to be ordered by midnight the night before or even better, order for the week on a Sunday.

The cost of school meals has increased slightly to £2.20 a day, however this is still excellent value for money and remains lower than most schools, which is something our governing board is committed to.

### BREAKTIME SNACKS

There are a selection of snacks that your child can purchase for breaktimes. However collecting money and organising daily is time consuming and takes valuable teaching time away from the staff, for Reception and KS1 if you could send money in for the whole week on Mondays this would be greatly appreciated.



### RAINBOWS

#### BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUB



Our breakfast club, which runs from 7.45am every morning and our after school club, which is open until 6.00pm have become increasingly popular over the past couple of years and do get fully booked. Therefore we have had to operate it as a pre-bookable service.

In order to book sessions you need to have done so, through School Money, by 12pm on the Thursday prior to the week you need to guarantee a space. You can also pre-book a whole term in advance.

If you need any support with this contact Mrs Schollar

[finance@etchinghillprimary.academy](mailto:finance@etchinghillprimary.academy)

### UNIFORM REMINDERS:

Our uniform consists of:

A blue sweatshirt/cardigan (Etching Hill logo products are available)

Red polo shirt (Etching Hill logo products are available)

Grey or black trousers / long shorts / skirts/pinafore dresses

Black, sensible footwear, these can be trainers as long as they are PLAIN black.

We have a strict jewellery policy which is stud earrings and a watch only. Children will be asked to remove any other jewellery.

Our smart, comfortable, PE kit of black polo shirt and PLAIN black joggers or shorts is to be worn all day on PE

### THANK YOU!

Once again you have blown us away with your kindness, generosity and willingness to embrace everything we do! When the children asked Mr Ray to organise another Colour Run we were very conscious of the pressure on parents financially, especially with the 6 weeks upon you, which is why we only asked for a £1 donation to take part.



However, we are delighted to share that the initial count this morning shows that you have raised over **£2000** for the Teenage Cancer Trust! We know that the children are going to have an amazing time completing it but to have raised this for such an amazing cause is truly **WONDERFUL!**



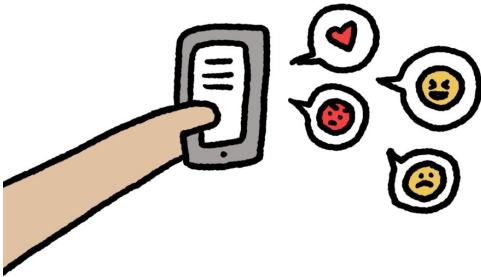
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	
Fri 21st July	Y6 Leavers Church Service (Parents Invited—9.15am start)
Fri 21st July	Final day in school for children—2pm finish
24th-25th July	<b>INSET DAYS 4 &amp; 5</b> —school closed to children
26th July—3rd September	Summer Holidays
4th September	<b>INSET DAY 1 2023-2024</b>
5th September	Return to school for Autumn Term
11th September	Y5 Residential—Laches Wood
Friday 27th October	<b>INSET DAY 2 - school closed to children</b>
30th October-3rd November	October Half Term
6th November	<b>INSET DAY 3—school closed to children</b>
7th November	Children return to school
Thursday 21st December	Children finish at 2pm for Christmas holidays
Friday 22nd December	<b>INSET DAY 4—school closed to children</b>
23rd Dec—7th January 2024	Christmas Holidays
Monday 8th January	Return to school for Spring term
12th-16th February	Spring half term holiday
Monday 19th February	Return to school
11th March	Y6 Paris Week
25th March to 5th April	Easter Holidays
Monday 8th April	Return to school for Summer term
Monday 6th May	May Bank Holiday—school closed to children
13th—17th May	KS2 SATs Week
27th May—31st May	May Half Term holiday
Monday 3rd June	<b>INSET DAY 5—School closed to children</b>
Tuesday 4th June	Return to school
Week 17th June	Sports Days—specific dates and times tbc
27th June	Provisional Date for Summer Fete
4th July	End of Year Reports to Parents
5th July	Whole School Transition Day
22nd July	Last Day of the School Year children finish at 2pm

# Being kind on social media

More and more children are using social media to communicate with friends, and whilst there are many positive aspects of this, there are unfortunately lots of ways in which this can cause issues. Primary aged children are still developing their rounded social skills, and so can at times lack empathy and consideration in their online communications, and this can hurt and upset others. If you allow your child to converse with friends online, you do need to be talking to them about thinking before they type, and considering the feelings of others in what they are discussing and 'talking' about. A simple question like "how would others feel if they read this comment?" could be a great start.

## QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF BEFORE COMMENTING ON

# SOCIAL MEDIA:



1 AM I VENTING OR ACTING OUT IN ANGER?

2 IS MY COMMENT USEFUL, KIND, TRUE, CONSTRUCTIVE?

3 WOULD I SAY THE SAME THING IN PERSON?

4 WOULD I BE OK WITH MY COMMENT IF IT WAS MADE PUBLIC?

5 WOULD I LIKE IT IF SOMEONE TALKED TO ME THAT WAY?

6 MIGHT I REGRET HAVING POSTED THIS COMMENT?

7 DOES MY COMMENT CONTAIN PRIVATE INFORMATION?